



Delphi Comm Schools

II. Project Abstract

Briefly (500 words maximum) describe the proposed project clearly and concisely using the space provided.

The focus of our project is to improve classroom instruction by incorporating project-based learning across curricular areas while effectively integrating technology into teacher instruction and student learning. Social studies teachers in grades 4-5 have worked together to discuss the pros and cons of textbook adoption for the 2009 school year. As a result, our educators decided to invest time and energy in trying new methods for social studies instruction and student learning. Teachers will not be purchasing textbooks, but instead, investing their time in collaborating and researching web-based information that can be used to promote and facilitate student learning. These learning opportunities will provide our students with experiences with Web2.0 tools that adults and students in other schools experience today including weblogs (blogs), podcasting, wikis, and other read/write web technologies. By improving our school community's internet strength and increasing the number of wireless access points, our students will have increased opportunities to participate in our global community instead of sitting on the sidelines watching students in other countries gaining integration experiences that our students also need in order to compete globally. Our school's project would provide mobile laptop carts for our teachers to share with each other (one mobile laptop cart per two classrooms). Funds will also be used to expand our current internet capacity. Our school is planning to add nearly 40 wireless access points all over the building to make it truly wireless. In addition, funds will be used to increase the amount of bandwidth currently offered. By incorporating a technology teacher next year, our teachers will have the most effective professional development imaginable with in-house staff development. Our full-time technology teacher will utilize technology to facilitate professional development while modeling it at the same time.

Our students will gain valuable experiences in project-based learning while having excellent access to the world wide web. Through this access, our students will better be able to understand the regional, national, and world communities of which they are a part. In reviewing the Indiana Academic Standards, there are many examples of students being asked to note how 'environment and society have changed over time.' Staff at DCES will become leaders in the nation when it comes to integration of social studies with technology and language arts. Our teachers will be given the tools for project-based learning with the availability of mobile learning, improved bandwidth, and access to a certified teacher who works exclusively in our district to support student learning and teacher instruction.

This grant opportunity helps our school and district in many ways. The improvement in internet bandwidth and wireless access points will give us the infrastructure to build upon our current 1:1 computer environment found in 2nd grade. However, the availability of laptops to more students will increase our current total of 1 laptop per 5 children to nearly 1 laptop per every 4 children. It is our desire to be a national leader in not only literacy instruction, but also technology integration.